

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objected to the specification and requested correction of the following errors. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments to the specification.

Please amend the term, high molecular compound, to high molecular weight compound throughout the specification. Additionally, please amend the term low molecular compound, to low molecular weight compound throughout the specification. A substitute specification showing the changes to the above mentioned terms is enclosed with this response and incorporated herein by reference. The above amendments are necessary to correct a translation error. Support for the amendment can be found on at least page 13 of the Specification which lists various high molecular weight compounds as examples of high molecular compounds and explains the decomposition of high molecular weight compounds into low molecular weight compounds.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 11 as follows:

Out of the biodegradable organic high molecular compounds, biodegradable aliphatic polyester resins, exhibiting high mixing performance or volume producibility, are preferred. As the biodegradable aliphatic polyester resins, polylactic acids, such as poly-L-lactic acid (PLLA) or random copolymers of L-lactic acid and D-lactic acid, and derivatives thereof, are more preferred. Of course, those compounds classified under aliphatic polyesters, such as, for example polycaprolactone, polyhydroxy lactic ~~acid~~ acid, polyhydroxy valeric acid, polyethylene succinate, polybutylene succinate, polybutylene adipate, polymalic acid, polyglycolic acid, polysuccinate, polyoxalate, polybutylene diglycolate, polydioxanone, polyesters synthesized by fermentation, or copolymers containing at least one of these compounds, may also be used.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning on page 15, line 4 as follows:

The esterified cellulose, used in the resin composition of the present embodiment, may be prepared by known methods. The esterified cellulose may be prepared by complete acetylation of cellulose followed by partial saponification. The esterified cellulose prepared is added by a plasticizer for improving its moldability. Although there is no particular limitation to the plasticizer provided that it has good biodegradability and high plasticizing performance, low molecular ester-based plasticizers are preferred and phosphates or carboxylates ~~carbonates~~ are more preferred.

Examples of the phosphates include triphenyl phosphate (TPP), tricresylphosphate (TCP), cresyl diphenyl phosphate, octyl diphenyl phosphate, diphenyl biphenyl phosphate, trioctyl phosphate and tributyl phosphate. Examples of ~~carbonates~~ carboxylates include phthalates and citrates. Concrete examples of the phthalates include dimethyl phthalate (DMP), diethyl phthalate (DEP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP), dioctyl phthalate (DOP), diphenyl phthalate (DPP) and diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP). Concrete examples of the citrates include o-acetyl triethyl citrate (OACTE), o-acetyl tributyl citrate (OACTB), acetyl triethyl citrate and acetyl tributyl citrate.

Other examples of ~~carbonates~~ carboxylates include butyl oleate, methyl acetyl ricinolate and acetyl tributyl citrate.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 57, line 9 as follows:

The nitrogen compound, used as flame retardant additive, may, for example, be a compound containing at least a nitrogen oxide of the formula of N_xO_y , where x and y are natural numbers, in its composition. For example, a non-metallic nitric acid compound and/or a non-metallic nitrous acid compound may be used. Examples of the nitrogen compound include phosphoric esters ($RONO_2$), such as acetyl nitrate ($C_2H_3NO_4$), aniline nitrate ($C_6H_8N_2O_3$),

ethyl nitrate ($C_2H_5ONO_2$), butyl nitrate ($C_4H_9ONO_2$), isoamyl nitrate ($(CH_3)_2CHCH_2CH_2ONO_2$), isobutyl nitrate ($(CH_3)_2CHCH_2ONO_2$) or isopropyl nitrate ($(CH_3)_2CHONO_2$), ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3), guanidine nitrate ($CH_6N_4O_3$), cellulose nitrate acetate (nitroacetyl cellulose), cellulose nitrate (nitrocellulose), urea nitrate, hydrodinium nitrate ($N_2H_5NO_3$), hydroxylammonium nitrate ($(NH_3O)NO_3$), and benzene diazonium nitrate ($C_6H_5N_3O_3$), and nitrous esters ($RONO$), such as ammonium nitrite, ethyl nitrite, methyl nitrite, propyl nitrite, butyl nitrite, isobutyl nitrite and isoamyl nitrite. The aforementioned nitrogen compounds may be used either singly or in combination.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 86, line 9 as follows:

The nitrogen compound, used as flame retardant additive, may, for example, be a compound containing, in its composition, at least a nitrogen oxide of the formula of N_xO_y , where x and y are natural numbers. For example, a non-metallic nitric acid compound and/or a non-metallic nitrous acid compound, may be used. Examples of the nitrogen compound include nitric acid phosphoric esters ($RONO_2$), such as acetyl nitrate ($C_2H_3NO_4$), aniline nitrate ($C_6H_8N_2O_3$), ethyl nitrate ($C_2H_5ONO_2$), butyl nitrate ($C_4H_9ONO_2$), isoamyl nitrate ($(CH_3)_2CHCH_2CH_2ONO_2$), isobutyl nitrate ($(CH_3)_2CHCH_2ONO_2$) or isopropyl nitrate ($(CH_3)_2CHONO_2$), ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3), guanidine nitrate ($CH_6N_4O_3$), cellulose nitrate acetate (nitroacetylcellulose), cellulose nitrate (nitrocellulose), urea nitrate, hydrodinium nitrate ($N_2H_5NO_3$), hydroxylammonium nitrate ($(NH_3O)NO_3$), and benzene diazonium nitrate ($C_6H_5N_3O_3$), and nitrous esters ($RONO$), such as ammonium nitrite, ethyl nitrite, methyl nitrite, propyl nitrite, butyl nitrite, isobutyl nitrite and isoamyl nitrite. The aforementioned nitrogen compounds may be used either singly or in combination.